

Human Relations News

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MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

HUGH J. ADDONIZIO, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

Room 214, City Hall, Newark, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281

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A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights July-August 1962

Addonizio to Expand Civil Rights Unit

Ten years ago Daniel S. Anthony was appointed by Mayor Ralph A. Villani as the first Director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations of Newark. Although a decade has elapsed during which the Commission has struggled in vain to improve its overall effectiveness, it now appears that Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio will establish a new approach to the civil rights needs of our City.

Mayor Addonizio has promised at long last to breathe new life into his Commission by strengthening and expanding its functions and personnel. Alexander Mark, chairman of the anti-discrimination group, has requested the Mayor to introduce an ordinance at the September 5th City Council meeting to fulfill his campaign pledge on civil rights and human relations.

Mayor Villani started the ball rolling when he signed the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance on October 15, 1952, setting up the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Its purpose was to help maintain the peace and welfare of Newark's citizenry by eliminating racial or religious antagonism and conflict whenever they existed.

With the change to the Charter Form of Government in 1954, the Mayor's Commission was perpetuated as a city agency, but it was never given the power or staff to operate as was hoped for with the creation of Mayor Villani's Ordinance.



Daniel S. Anthony, Director, and Ivory Hutchins, Assistant Director of Group Relations Commission, congratulate Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio (seated) on expanding the staff of the Commission.

Despite that fact, as we approach our Tenth Anniversary, the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations has a record of which it can be proud. With never more than two professional staff members it has accounted for an enviable educational achievement.

Education For Action

Here are just a few of its activities

during the first ten years which have involved the entire City in the work of understanding our neighbors and getting to know what makes the other fellow tick. During the first ten years of its existence the staff and commissioners reached approximately 141,302 people through speaking engagements

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

EDITORIAL

Frequently during the course of our daily lives we hear the terms "group relations," "intergroup relations," "human relations," "race relations," "human rights," and "civil rights." Needless to say they mean different things to different people. To some people, particularly some members of the majority, these are terms which connote things that they take for granted.

To members of the minority the above terms convey things which they do not have, but want; not because they are entitled to certain rights under the Constitution, but because they are people, live people with feelings, pride and dignity.

All too often members of the majority feel that their rights are being violated if a Negro or a Puerto Rican has the wherewithal to move into a community which previously has been closed to him, or if a Jew or Catholic is able to obtain a position in a place of business or a top job in industry which has been dominated by the white Protestants for years. The right for the Negro and Puerto Rican to live in a better house and for the Jew or Catholic to make a better living seldom occurs to the majority, whether it is a religious, ethnic or racial majority, particularly if this right involves close contact.

There is much unrest in this country and in the world because the minority group is tired of talking and waiting for justice, the justice for which he has to ask and beg.

Many councils, committees, workshops, institutes and other groups have been created to solve the problems related to the rights of all people. Very often the participants who are members of the majority show some superficial awareness of the problem. However, should anyone suggest that they practice what they preach there is a great possibility that there would be trouble. The feeling is that anything and everything which would benefit the minority is fine, as long as I, as a member of the majority, will not have to come into contact with them.

The "minority problem" is not the problem of the minority; it is the problem of the majority because of its inability to accept the facts of life

in this world. Every day more and more people who have been denied certain rights and privileges all their lives realize that they are just as human as anyone else and as human beings possessing the natural instinct to fight for life, they will devise some means of fighting for these rights.

Let's all join in this fight. We need them all to win the struggle for human dignity which is the right of everyone.

Addonizio Re-Appoints Mark Chairman of Commission

Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio recently re-appointed Alexander Mark as Chairman of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Mark, who is superintendent of training of the Newark Post Office, has been Chairman of the Commission for the past four years.

Fulfilling a campaign promise to strengthen and expand the activities of the Mayor's Commission, the Mayor indicated his desire to carry out his pledge. He said he plans to move ahead in changing the name of the agency to Newark Commission on Civil Rights.

"The Commission is in need of additional staff to help it carry out its function. The work of the Commission must be geared toward making it an important and effective arm of the administration. It is important to me that Newark be a City without any touch of discrimination or inequality," Mayor Addonizio said.

At the same time the Mayor urged all department heads to work with the Mayor's Commission in order to improve the relationship between the various racial, ethnic and religious groups in Newark.

The Mayor will appoint five new Commissioners within the next month. This will bring the Commission up to its full strength of fifteen.

Mark is a member of the Board of Directors at the Newark YM-YWHA. He is also on the coadjutant staff of Rutgers Institute of Labor and Management and a major in the army reserves. Mark and his wife, Dora, have two sons, Barry, who is a Sophomore at Weequahic High School and Jeffery, a Sophomore at Rutgers University.

Commission Praised by Neighborhood Association

To the Editor:

Sir—There is an important movement starting in Newark toward the restoration of community spirit. This is taking the form of neighborhood block associations. The idea seems to be taking hold, particularly in Weequahic and Clinton Hill. In Clinton Hill, prizes are being offered for the prettiest gardens, and the Baldwin Avenue Block Association recently sent a group of children on a free bus trip to Freedland.

Our recently formed Lehigh Avenue Neighborhood Association is doing a good job in getting old and new residents better acquainted. Neighbors are helping neighbors; houses are being fixed up and painted; lawns and gardens are getting more attention. And probably more important, there is a general feeling of stabilization and security. New colored families on the block have been welcomed into the organization.

As a result of this activity, there is no evidence of panic-selling, the scourge of too many American communities. Block busting real estate salesmen are being told to peddle their wares elsewhere. At a recent meeting of the LANA, Dan Anthony, director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, stressed that integration actually increased property values, and that the opposite is true only when panic-selling takes hold in a neighborhood.

We anticipate the formation of at least two dozen new block organizations in Weequahic by the end of the year. This will go a long way toward making Newark a better place to live in.

MAURICE A. BERLINRUT,
MAURICE DIAMANT,

Newark.

Co-chairmen.

Weequahic Community Council
Block Organization Committee.

(Reprint from The Newark News)

Eight Scholarships Given For Youth Institute

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations has awarded the following recipients scholarships to attend the Third Annual Brotherhood Youth Institute, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Marilyn Black, Joseph Bruno, Peter Francis and Diane Friedman of West Side High School; Patricia Scott, Barringer High School; Maria Farese and Phyllis Moskowitz, Weequahic High School; and Kenneth Booker, South Side High School.

The Brotherhood Youth Institute is designed for high school girls and boys to learn and live brotherhood in a society where there is a variety of ethnic, religious and racial groups represented.

Camp Kittatinny will be the location of this year's Institute. The camp is located near Newton, New Jersey. The atmosphere will be such that the participants will be able to discuss and hear lectures on basic concepts of human relations, issues and problems that affect our lives in today's world.

Trained adults from the National Conference of Christians and Jews as well as human relations specialists, community workers, teachers and other professionals will comprise the resident staff.

Group Relations Committee Appointed by Board of Ed

A citizens-advisory committee on inter-group relations has been appointed by the Board of Education to advise the Board on group relations in the Newark school system.

One of the areas of concern for the Committee will be the optional pupil transfer plan which will take effect in September.

Morris Fuchs, past president of the Board said the board discussed membership on the Committee with the Newark branch of the NAACP before making any selections.

The thirteen members chosen are: Walter Chambers, associate director of the New Jersey Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Mrs. Ethel Moore, vice president



Scholarship recipients (left to right) Peter Francis, Marilyn Black, Joseph Bruno, Mayor Addonizio, Miss Hutchins, Assistant Director of the Commission, Patricia Scott, Phyllis Moskowitz and Kenneth Booker. Not pictured: Maria Farese and Diane Friedman.

COMMUNITIES USING NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

More and more neighborhood associations are being formed in the Newark area as people become aware and interested in the conditions, problems and changes in their neighborhoods. The people living down the street and next door are also getting some attention from their neighbors.

The two newest neighborhood groups are the Lehigh Avenue Neighborhood

Association (LANA—see page 2, col. 3) in the Weequahic area and the West Market Community Club in the central Newark area.

Officers of the Lehigh Avenue Neighborhood Association are: Co-chairmen, Maurice Berlinut and Maurice Diamant; Vice-chairman, Mrs. Shirley Kaye; Secretary, Mrs. Taras Berlinut; Treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Cohen.

The West Market Community Club has elected the following officers: President, Mrs. Betty Williams; Recording secretary, Mrs. Rose McIntyre; Corresponding secretary, Mrs. Anderson; Treasurer, Mrs. Russell; Co-ordinator, Rudolph McIntyre; and Rev. Earl Huff is the Chaplain.

The Bock Avenue Block Association recently re-elected Donald Payne as President at its annual meeting. Other officers elected were: Albert Levin and Allen Davis, Vice-presidents; Purnell Beverly, Recording secretary; Mrs. Helen Reid, Corresponding secretary; Mrs. Charlotte Brody, Financial secretary; and Robert Steward, Treasurer.

These groups are to be commended for the wonderful job they are doing in their communities, particularly in the area of human relations.

(Reprint from *The Newark News*)

Expand Civil Rights Unit

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

to various groups, special conferences, meetings and public celebrations. Two thousand, ninety-seven (2,097) programs of an informative nature, the purpose of which was to reduce prejudice and discrimination were also held during this period. The Commission has been involved in 8,177 consultation sessions with other agencies, organizations and individuals.

Audit of Assets and Liabilities

The fifteen lay commissioners and staff were responsible for the finest scientific community survey ever accomplished in any city in America. The massive three-volume study, Newark—A City in Transition, is a perfect blue print for action. If the recommendations in this Study could be carried out, Newark would have the best civil rights and human relations program of any city of its size in the country.

If these recommendations are not followed through, Newark might well fall victim to the racial incidents and riotous minority situations which plague many American cities today.

How to Improve Civil Rights

The Mayor wants to "strengthen and expand" the Commission on Group Relations.

The Commission, at the request of Mayor Addonizio, has drawn up plans for eliminating prejudice and discrimination in all areas of our civil life. In order to accomplish this necessary goal, we have suggested the following:

1. Endow the Director of the group with a leadership and advisory role in all city matters dealing with problems of a racial, religious or ethnic nature.

2. Inform all city agency heads that they are to cooperate to the fullest extent with the Commission in the fulfillment of its legal function: to aid in keeping peace and harmony in this City.

3. Raise the salary range of the Field Worker and Research Assistant to a level commensurate with his functions, responsibilities and experience to coordinate the preventive activities in the neighborhoods of Newark.

For more than a year we tried to find a man for this job. We lost the

three men who held this crucial post because our salary range, \$5,000-\$6,000, was too low. We suggest it be raised to a range of \$6,400 to \$8,400. We would then be able to get the person we are seeking.

4. Hire a Housing and Relocation Specialist at \$7,000 to \$9,500 to keep the people of our neighborhoods informed as to "what's going on" and what is being planned under urban redevelopment for their particular block or neighborhood. This Specialist will also spend a good deal of his time in aiding citizens to find decent, safe and wholesome homes in neighborhoods of their own choosing.

5. Hire a Puerto Rican and Cuban Affairs Coordinator to work with these newest of our neighbors in making a good and happy transition to the urban way of life. This person will have to speak Spanish as well as English fluently in order to solve the many problems of our citizens who need aid in adjusting to our customs and habits in America. The salary range would be \$6,000 to \$8,000.

No Extra Money Needed

All of the above recommendations, plus a raise in the Director's salary range, can be immediately accomplished without an emergency appropriation.

The time for action is now. If these suggestions are carried out, the Mayor's Commission can begin to function in accordance with the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance which established the Agency in October of 1952.

Titus Named Chairman of Annual United Nations Week

Franklin Titus, deputy superintendent of schools in Newark, has been appointed as Chairman of the annual celebration of the United Nations Week by Mayor Addonizio.

The Mayor, in announcing the appointment, indicated that he hoped the program would give importance and meaning to the work of the United Nations.

This issue of Human Relations News was prepared and edited by Miss Ivory Hutchins, Assistant Director of the Commission.

U. S. Civil Rights Commission To Hold Hearing in Newark

Berl I. Bernhard, staff director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, announced that the Commission will hold a two-day public hearing in Newark on September 11th and 12th.

Newark will be the third in a series of hearings being held by the Commission to evaluate civil rights of minority groups in a variety of communities located in metropolitan areas.

According to Bernhard, Newark was selected because "It is governed by comprehensive state and city laws designed to eliminate discrimination in housing, education, employment and public accommodations, including hospitals and all retail establishments."

Another reason why Newark was chosen is because of the size of the minority population. The Negro population of Newark has more than doubled within the last twelve years while the total population has remained about the same. Also the Puerto Rican population in Newark has grown to more than 15,000 according to statistics.

In preparing for the hearing members of the Commission will visit Newark within the next several weeks to collect information.

All persons interested in civil rights and race relations are cordially invited to attend these important hearings. If you wish to testify on any aspect of Civil Rights, please contact Dan Anthony or Miss Ivory Hutchins at MI 3-6300, Ext. 281.

Addonizio said, "We are so close to the world organization, and yet so few of us really know enough about it. I hope the entire community joins us in celebrating the beginning of the world organization."

The program, which will be held during the week of October 21, is sponsored jointly by the City through the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and the Newark Chapter of the American Association for the United Nations.

Mr. Titus has been in the Newark school system since 1945, when he was named principal of the Eighteenth Avenue School.